



HR0219

LRB101 11701 MST 58352 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In April 1936, Edward "Lefty" Meier purchased a
3 used bottling machine with reward money he received from
4 catching a bank robber in Germantown and set up a bottling
5 plant in Breese with his wife, Catherine Bruegge Meier; and

6 WHEREAS, The Meiers set up their bottling machine in
7 Catherine's grandmother's house; they called their company
8 Excel Bottling, and Catherine continued to manage the
9 bookkeeping until she was 97; today, the house has expanded
10 into a modern soda bottling and brewery plant; and

11 WHEREAS, Excel Bottling remains one of the few independent
12 family bottlers in the nation and is currently managed by the
13 third generation of the Meier family; and

14 WHEREAS, Excel Bottling is the only returnable bottling
15 line remaining in Illinois, and people still pick up soda and
16 return bottles to the plant in Breese; and

17 WHEREAS, Since 1961, Excel Bottling has produced a
18 naturally-flavored citrus soda called Ski and has kept the same
19 recipe, which uses pure cane sugar, for 58 years; and

20 WHEREAS, The sweet and satisfying taste of Ski soda has

1 garnered tremendous popularity in Illinois and the St. Louis
2 area and is enjoyed by young and old alike; and

3 WHEREAS, For over 60 years, Excel Bottling has generated
4 jobs and economic growth for the State of Illinois, and Ski
5 soda has been an important cultural icon for the Prairie State;
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
8 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 in the spirit of the Excel Bottling Company motto, "Good things
10 don't have to change", we commend and celebrate the tradition
11 of Ski soda and the culture of community it has fostered and
12 wish them continued success in the future; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the Meier family as an expression of our esteem
15 and respect.